

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 1078

S.P. 377

In Senate, February 9, 1999

An Act to Extend Term Limits for Elected Officials and Constitutional Officers.

Reference to the Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator MILLS of Somerset.
Cosponsored by Senator DAGGETT of Kennebec, Representatives: HATCH of Skowhegan,
THOMPSON of Naples, TUTTLE of Sanford.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

2 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §553**, as enacted by IB 1993, c. 1, §1 and
4 affected by §2, is amended to read:

6 **§553. Limitations on terms**

8 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, consecutive
10 terms in office are limited as follows.

12 **1. State Senate.** A person may not serve more than -4- 6
consecutive terms as a state Senator.

14 **2. State Representative.** A person may not serve more
16 than -4- 6 consecutive terms as a member of the state House of
Representatives.

18 **3. Secretary of State.** A person may not serve more
20 than -4- 6 consecutive terms as Secretary of State.

22 **4. Treasurer of State.** A person may not serve more
than -4- 6 consecutive terms as Treasurer of State.

24 **5. Attorney General.** A person may not serve more than -4-
26 6 consecutive terms as Attorney General.

28 **6. State Auditor.** A person may not serve more than -2- 3
consecutive terms as State Auditor.

30 This section applies to terms of office that begin on or
32 after December 3, 1996.

34 **Sec. 2. Statutory referendum procedure; submission at general
election; form of question; effective date.** This Act must be submitted
36 to the legal voters of the State of Maine at a general election
held on the Tuesday following the first Monday of November
38 following passage of this Act in the year 2000. The municipal
officers of this State shall notify the inhabitants of their
40 respective cities, towns and plantations to meet, in the manner
prescribed by law for holding a general election, to vote on the
42 acceptance or rejection of this Act by voting on the following
question:

44 "Do you favor increasing term limits to 12 years for elected
46 officials and constitutional officers?"

48 The legal voters of each city, town and plantation shall
vote by ballot on this question, and shall designate their choice
50 by a cross or check mark placed within a corresponding square
below the word "Yes" or "No." The ballots must be received,
52 sorted, counted and declared in open ward, town and plantation
meetings and returns made to the Secretary of State in the same

2 manner as votes for members of the Legislature. The Governor
shall review the returns and, if it appears that a majority of
4 the legal votes are cast in favor of the Act, the Governor shall
proclaim that fact without delay, and the Act takes effect 30
6 days after the date of the proclamation.

8 The Secretary of State shall prepare and furnish to each
city, town and plantation all ballots, returns and copies of this
10 Act necessary to carry out the purpose of this referendum.

12 SUMMARY

14 This bill extends the number of years of service authorized
under the term limits law from 8 to 12 years for Legislators, the
16 Secretary of State, the Treasurer of State and the Attorney
General and from 8 to 12 years for the State Auditor. The bill
18 also requires that the voters of the State vote on this matter at
the general election held in the year 2000.